

# HarborFest



Left photo: Masked wrestlers perform in a wrestling ring during HarborFest. Center photo: A smiling HarborFest performer dressed in a colorful mermaid-inspired costume and headpiece. Right photo: A small dog wearing sunglasses, a colorful headpiece and a blue shirt at HarborFest.

**After a six-year hiatus, [HarborFest](#) is making its long-awaited return to the Chula Vista waterfront on Saturday, Aug. 22, 2026, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., bringing together residents and visitors for a vibrant celebration of South Bay culture, maritime heritage and community connection.**

As one of the City of Chula Vista's signature events, HarborFest returns reimagined for 2026 with an exciting new energy, expanded programming and immersive experiences designed to celebrate the city's evolving waterfront. Set directly along the bay, the free family-friendly festival invites guests of all ages to explore interactive water activities, live entertainment, artisan markets, cultural experiences, delicious local food and more.

HarborFest 2026 will feature a variety of thoughtfully curated event experiences throughout the waterfront. Guests can enjoy live entertainment at the Flagship Stage and Waterfront Tap Garden, vibrant cultural performances at the Dockside Beats Latin Stage, and a curated artisan marketplace at The Coastal Collective featuring local makers and coastal-inspired goods.

Families can explore Mermaid & Mariner Cove, a dedicated kids area filled with hands-on activities and entertainment, while Harbor Showdown & Street Eats will bring together exciting competitions like Lucha Libre fights and diverse local food vendors. The festival will also include Ships of the Land Car Show and immersive waterfront experiences through [The Water Way](#).

One of HarborFest's most distinctive features is its direct connection to the water, giving attendees the opportunity to actively experience the bay through free kayaking, paddleboarding, fishing activities and seal tours available for a small fee. As one of the only festivals in the region centered around life on the waterfront, HarborFest offers an experience unlike any other in South Bay.

Taking place during celebrations, the event will feature interactive educational booths, sustainability-focused activations and community partnerships dedicated to promoting environmental awareness and supporting waterfront communities.

While admission is free, guests have the option to elevate their experience through a limited number of curated "Tides & Tastes Pass" tickets, designed as a relaxed waterfront retreat with comfort, shade and easy access to HarborFest's biggest moments. The upgraded experience includes preferred viewing access near the Flagship Stage, shaded lounge seating, dedicated restrooms, private bar access, one chef-curated taco plate, and two hosted beverages including beer, wine or non-alcoholic options.

For more information, event updates and tickets, visit the [HarborFest website](#).

## Chula Vista CityCast Podcast



Left photo: Construction equipment at Hilltop Park during ongoing park improvements. Top right photo: Construction fencing and a "Coming Soon" sign announcing renovations at Eucalyptus Park. Bottom right photo: Construction crews working on improvements at Eucalyptus Park.

**The City of Chula Vista is proud to announce the launch of its first official podcast, Chula Vista CityCast. The inaugural episode, titled "Parks for the People," gives listeners an inside look at the City's Parks & Recreation Department, including updates on renovation work underway at Hilltop and Eucalyptus Parks.**

Chula Vista CityCast is designed to take listeners behind the scenes of City operations, featuring conversations with local leaders, highlighting community events and stories, and explaining projects and programs that directly impact residents.

The bimonthly podcast will launch as an audio-only series. Each episode will be followed the next month by a companion video segment. For example, the conversation about Hilltop Park in the first episode will continue in August with a short video offering a closer look at the renovation progress.

The podcast is available now on the [City's YouTube channel](#) and on major podcast platforms, including iHeart, Apple Podcasts and Spotify. To help introduce the new series to the community, the City is launching a social media and media relations campaign targeting both local and regional audiences.

For more information, follow the City of Chula Vista on social media by searching @thinkchulvista.

## City Tips and Updates

### Your Voice Matters! Get Involved in Your Community



The City of Chula Vista has multiple vacancies on its Boards and Commissions and is inviting community members who are interested in making a difference to apply.

City Boards and Commissions are an important part of local government. They give residents an opportunity to share their ideas, experiences and perspectives while helping advise the City Council and City staff on issues that matter to our community.

Whether you are passionate about planning and development, transportation, public safety, veterans' services, community programs, or other areas that impact Chula Vista, there may be a Board or Commission that is right for you.

#### Why Get Involved?

Serving on a City Board or Commission is a great way to:

- Make an Impact – Help shape recommendations and contribute to Chula Vista's future.

- Connect with Your Community – Meet other residents who care about making Chula Vista an even better place to live.
- Share Your Perspective – Your experiences, ideas, and knowledge can offer valuable insights into important community discussions.

Learn About Local Government – Gain a better understanding of how the City works and how decisions are made.

#### Ready to Make a Difference?

You don't have to be an expert or a long-time community leader to get involved. If you care about Chula Vista and want to contribute your time and perspective, we encourage you to apply!

Multiple vacancies are currently available.

[Learn more, view available vacancies, and apply today.](#)

## City Tips and Updates

### City Budget: Sewer Billing



A photo of someone doing sewer maintenance

The City of Chula Vista provides sewer services to over 50,000 residences and places of business. The sewer service charge was established to fund the sewer collection system.

Sewer rate revenues fund the operation and maintenance of city-owned sewer collection and conveyance facilities, capital projects, debt service, administration, maintaining reserves and prudent long-term operation and contingencies. Sewer rate revenues are also used to pay for wastewater treatment provided by the City of San Diego Metropolitan Wastewater Authority (Metro).

City of Chula Vista sewer customers will see an increase in their sewer bill, effective July 1, due to the increase in cost to the City to utilize San Diego's wastewater treatment location, (such as chemical/materials costs, energy and construction costs) as a pass-through. These increases amount to a total rate increase of 6.95%. An average residential customer with a current bill of \$55 will see an increase to approximately \$59 per month beginning in July. For more details on the sewer rate adjustment, [visit our website](#).

The City offers payment plans for customers in need. Applications must be completed and submitted to the City's Finance Department. Check our [website](#) for more information regarding sewer rates, the Reduced Sewer Rate Program and payment plans.

### Chula Vista Animal Services: Clear the Shelter

Clear the Shelters, reduced adoption fees for the month of August.

Throughout the month, adoption fees will be reduced to:

- Dogs and cats: \$25
- Small pets: \$5, including rabbits, guinea pigs and hamsters

All adopted pets are spayed or neutered, microchipped and have received their age-appropriate first vaccines.

Adoption applications can be completed [online](#) or in person at:  
Chula Vista Animal Services, 130 Beyer Way, Chula Vista, CA 91911

#### Hours

- Tuesday–Friday: 10 a.m.–5 p.m.
- Saturday: 10 a.m.–4 p.m.
- Closed daily from 12–1 p.m.



## City Tips and Updates

### 2026 Ranger Day



Group photo of rangers at  
World Ranger Day 2026

The 2026 World Ranger Day celebration was hosted by the Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space District at the Acorn and Pecan Shade Shelter in Rancho Jurupa Regional Park. The event marked California's eighth annual observance of World Ranger Day and brought together rangers and park professionals from across the region to honor the dedication, service and sacrifices of those who protect our natural, cultural, and recreational resources.

World Ranger Day, observed globally since 2006, recognizes rangers for their vital role in safeguarding parks and protected areas and commemorates those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. This year's gathering offered an inspiring opportunity for colleagues to connect, reflect, and celebrate the shared mission of stewardship. The celebration served as a meaningful reminder of the commitment rangers demonstrate in preserving the lands and resources communities value most.

### Input Needed for Extreme Heat Survey

The City of Chula Vista is working with the San Diego Regional Climate Collaborative to create an Extreme Heat Action Plan and needs your input. Data collected through this survey will contribute to a regional, multi-year project developing plans, tools, and resources for San Diego County.

Sharing your personal experience with heat waves in the San Diego region will aid in identifying gaps and improve community cooling resources available to communities during extreme heat events. Your input and responses will be used to guide and inform the regional heat project with the goal of advancing more accessible cooling resources in your community.

This survey is a total of eight questions and should take less than 5 minutes. Your input and willingness to participate is invaluable. To complete the survey, visit [Climate Collaborative San Diego Region](#).



A photo of a man who is wiping sweat off of his forehead and a thermostat showing a high degree of Fahrenheit.

## City Tips and Updates

### Human Relations Commission Awards – Nominations Now Open!



A photo of the Bayfront Shuttle in front of the Chula Vista Bayfront at Sunset

The City of Chula Vista Human Relations Commission invites the community to nominate individuals, organizations, businesses, and youth who are making a positive difference in Chula Vista. These annual awards recognize those whose service, leadership, and commitment help strengthen our community.

Do you know an individual, youth, business, or organization making a positive impact in the Chula Vista community? [Nominate someone online today!](#)  
Deadline to Submit: Sept. 15, 2026

#### Award Categories

**Youth Award:** Recognizes a young leader (18 years or younger) committed to community service and improving human relations in Chula Vista.

**Lifetime Achievement Award:** Honors an individual who has demonstrated a long-term commitment to fostering human relations in Chula Vista.

**Individual Award:** Recognizes an individual dedicated to community service that fosters improved human relations in Chula Vista.

**Organization Award:** Recognizes a nonprofit organization, business, or public agency whose work, programs, or leadership have made a positive impact on human relations in Chula Vista.

### How to Speak at a City Council Meeting Using New Virtual System

#### Stay informed and Prepared

Review the [City Council Meeting Agenda](#) and select the agenda items you'd like to speak on and choose how you would like to participate.

#### Sign Up to Speak (Opens at 8 a.m. on Monday)

- Go online to the [City Website](#).
- Click "Register to Speak at a City Council Meeting"
- Select the meeting date.
- Click "Register"
- Fill out your details. A phone number is required if speaking by phone.
- Select how you want to provide your comments: In Person at the meeting or virtually by phone.
- Choose the agenda items and your position, such as in favor or against.
- Click "Register."

You'll receive an email confirmation that lists the items you requested to speak on and further instructions to comment in person or by phone.

#### How to Speak Virtually

1. Register [online](#). Registration closes at the time noted on the agenda.
2. Join the meeting by phone
  - 619-679-9952
3. You will be informed when it is your turn to speak.
4. Every speaker has a set amount of time.
5. Be respectful. Your comments help shape our City.

#### How to Speak In-Person

1. Register [online](#) or in person at the meeting.
2. Attend the meeting at City Hall, 276 4th Ave, Chula Vista.
3. Check in with the City Clerks.
4. When your name is called, stand to speak at the podium.
5. The timer on the podium tells you how much time you have remaining.

## Business Spotlight: JNC Pinoy Food



On Left: Group photo of JNC Pinoy Food employees in the restaurant. On Right: Photo of food bar at JNC Pinoy Food.

**When JNC Pinoy Food opened its doors in 2004, the owners had a simple dream: to share the homemade Filipino dishes they grew up with and create a welcoming place where people could gather, enjoy a great meal and feel at home. More than two decades later, that dream has become a cherished reality—thanks to the unwavering support of the community that has stood by them every step of the way.**

Throughout the years, JNC Pinoy Food has found immense joy in serving San Diego's vibrant Filipino community while also introducing Filipino cuisine to people of all backgrounds. Whether guests arrive seeking a familiar taste of home or trying Filipino food for the first time, seeing them return repeatedly has been one of the restaurant's greatest rewards. Food has a powerful ability to connect people, and more than 20 years, the team at JNC Pinoy Food has witnessed that connection unfold daily.

The restaurant's place in the Chula Vista community has grown deeper than the owners ever imagined. Located near Southwestern College and Bonita Vista High School, JNC Pinoy Food has served generations of students, teachers, families and residents. Over the years, the staff has watched students stop by after class, graduate, begin careers, start families, and continue returning long after. Those familiar faces remind the team that JNC Pinoy Food is more than a restaurant, it has become a small but meaningful part of people's lives.

The menu is rooted in traditional Filipino comfort foods passed down through generations. Popular dishes include Lumpia, Pancit, Sinigang, Chicken and Pork Adobo, Menudo, Dinuguan and Filipino BBQ skewers—all prepared with family recipes and the care that has defined the restaurant since the beginning. Recently, the community's enthusiasm for JNC Pinoy Food's take on the Ilocos Empanada has brought even more people through the doors. While the empanadas have become a standout favorite, they represent just one of many dishes proudly served.

After more than two decades, what JNC Pinoy Food values most are the relationships built along the way. Every customer who has shared a meal, recommended the restaurant, or celebrated a special moment there has helped sustain its legacy. The loyalty of the community continues to inspire gratitude each day.

From the JNC Pinoy Food family to the Chula Vista community, thank you for more than 20 years of support. The team looks forward to serving homemade Filipino food—and heartfelt hospitality—for many years to come.

JNC Pinoy Foods is located at 943 Otay Lakes Road Suite D. They are open Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

You can follow JNC Pinoy Foods on Instagram at @jnc.pinoy.

If you would like your small business featured in a future newsletter, please complete this [submission form](#).

For business assistance, be sure to refer to the [Business Resource Guide](#) for additional information on available resources to assist your business.

## Community Impact: W8sted Heart



A photo of artist Melicha at W8sted Heart event, selling art as a vendor

**Every piece of art begins with someone willing to create. For the founder of W8sted Heart, it begins with creating a place where others feel encouraged to do the same.**

What started as an idea while selling clothing alongside her sister at local flea markets has grown into a creative community where artists, musicians and makers gather to share their work and inspire one another. W8sted Heart isn't designed as a traditional vendor market.

Every booth features artists who create their own work, from handmade goods to original art, alongside collectors of physical media like vinyl records, CDs and books. Live music fills the space throughout the day, and the event closes with an open mic and karaoke, inviting anyone brave enough to step onto the stage.

For founder Kiki, the market is about far more than selling art. It's about creating opportunities for people to discover what they're capable of. A visitor might leave inspired to pick up a paintbrush, learn an instrument or finally start the small business they've been putting off. An aspiring musician might find the confidence to perform for the first time. An artist might meet someone who understands the passion behind every handmade piece.

That sense of belonging found a home at Casa Casillas, where W8sted Heart now hosts its markets. After the closure of its previous venue, Kiki considered ending the project altogether. Instead, a recommendation from former Casa Casillas Artist in Residence Melissa "Melicha" Salgado led her to Casa Casillas, where she found a space that matched the community she had always envisioned. She credits the Casa Casillas team for embracing the market's immersive themes, supporting its creative vision and helping transform each event into an experience rather than simply a place to shop.

Every detail is intentional. Disposable cameras are scattered throughout the market so visitors can capture moments together. Those photos become scrapbooks guests can revisit at future events, preserving memories alongside new friendships. The market remains free to attend, making it accessible for anyone curious enough to walk through the doors.

Whether guests leave with a handmade print, a new favorite band or simply the confidence to start creating themselves, Kiki hopes everyone walks away feeling the same thing: that creativity deserves a place to grow, and that no one should waste the potential they carry within them.

The next W8sted Heart Market takes place Saturday, Aug. 16, from noon to 6 p.m. at Casa Casillas, 50 Fourth Ave., Chula Vista, 91910. Admission is free and all are welcome.

## Events Calendar



### Community Exhibit: The People Imagine Art

A community-powered exhibition celebrating printmaking as a tool for civic engagement and collective storytelling. This exhibit brings together voices from across the neighborhood to reflect on shared experiences for our communities.

**When:** Sunday, August 9 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

**Where:** Casa Casillas, 50 Fourth Ave., Chula Vista, 91910



### W8sted Heart

Spend your day with us and listen to live music, shop from local creative vendors and enjoy food vendors.

**When:** Sunday, August 16 from 12 to 4 p.m.

**Where:** Casa Casillas, 50 Fourth Ave., Chula Vista, 91910



### Passport to Cooking Workshop

Young chefs will create delicious recipes inspired by different countries while learning basic cooking skills, kitchen safety, and proper cooking etiquette.

**When:** Friday, August 21 at 6 p.m.

**Where:** Monteville Community Center, 840 Duncan Ranch Rd., Chula Vista, 91914

**Age Restrictions:** 8-13 years old

**Register:** [Passport to Cooking Workshop](#)



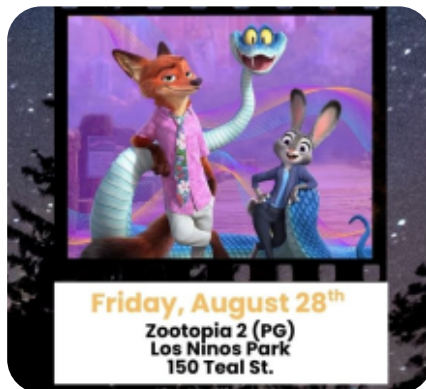
### HarborFest

Making its long-awaited comeback since 2019, HarborFest sets sail once again as South Bay's signature waterfront celebration – where the community's love of maritime culture, live entertainment and family-friendly summer experiences collide.

**When:** Saturday, August 22 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**Where:** 999 Bayside Pkwy, Chula Vista

**More info:** [HarborFest](#)



### Movies in the Park

Join us under the stars for a FREE family-friendly movie series across Chula Vista parks! Bring your lawn chairs, picnic blankets, snacks and the whole family for a fun night out at the park.

**When:** Friday, August 28 at 5 p.m.

**Where:** Los Ninos Park, 150 Teal St, Chula Vista, 91911



### Mexican Independence Day- El Grito

Celebrate Mexican Independence Day – Enjoy an unforgettable evening of traditional Mexican live entertainment, cultural performances, delicious food and beverages. Official Grito ceremony conducted by the Consulado General de México en San Diego at 7 p.m.

**When:** Sunday, September 13 from 4 to 8 p.m.

**Where:** Memorial Park, 373 Park Way, Chula Vista, 91910

## City of Chula Vista City Council Meetings

The Chula Vista City Council is scheduled to meet on Tuesday, August 11, 18 and 25 at 5 p.m. Members of the public are invited to provide e-comments on any agenda item. We encourage community participation—sign up [online](#) to receive email notifications when City Council agendas are available. Agenda for all City Council meetings can be found on the [City website](#). A Spanish-language video stream is available and interpretation services for Spanish speakers are provided at each City Council meeting. Members of the public can watch the meeting via livestream. Chula Vista City Council meetings are video recorded and aired live on Cox Cable channel 24 (only in Chula Vista). Recorded meetings are also archived on the [City's website](#).